## The Fox



A Movement from "The International Carnival of the Animals"

Peter Dyson 2004

The Fox: Programme note.

Fox hunting is a controversial pastime in Britain and still conjures up in peoples' minds a picture of the upper classes having a jolly time riding around the countryside in their red coats, chasing the sly and cunning fox.

This traditional picture of Britain has almost disappeared as more and more landowners have banned this cruel and barbaric way of "controlling" the size of the fox population from taking place on their land. Indeed it is probably true to say that more foxes live in towns than in the countryside now, scavenging off the rubbish that lies in and around the towns and cities.

As my contribution to this "International Carnival of the Animals" I have painted a simple picture of the English fox. After the "Once upon a time" beginning to this story, he is seen loping around the countryside. He stops and listens when he hears the distance calls of the hunt. He hides. The hunt begins and the "Lords and Ladies" gallop across the open fields following the hounds. Suddenly the fox is discovered and the chase is on in earnest. As he tires, the hounds close in and leap upon him. End of story? Or does his spirit live on lurking round the empty countryside. Our story concludes with "Once upon a time" again. Yes, once there were foxes and fox hunting took place in the English countryside. The echoes of galloping horses are heard as they ride into folk-lore history.











































































